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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3792  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
INFO RUEHJS/AMCONSUL SURABAYA 2565  
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 6642

UNCLAS JAKARTA 001878

SIPDIS  
SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR EAP/MTS, L, CA, P  
DEPT PASS TO PEACE CORPS  
SINGAPORE PASS NSC DELL WALTON

E.O. 12598: N/A

TAGS: [EAID](#) [USAID](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [CPAS](#) [ID](#)

SUBJECT: Peace Corps Agreement Reached With Indonesia

REFTEL: STATE 0001861

¶1. (SBU) Summary: The United States and the Government of Indonesia (GOI) reached an agreement on November 12 that will allow Peace Corps to establish a program in Indonesia after a forty-year absence. With this agreement, Peace Corps' return to Indonesia can potentially be announced at President Obama and President Yudhoyono's meeting at the APEC Summit in Singapore on November 15 as a concrete deliverable for the proposed U.S.-Indonesia Comprehensive Partnership. There is only one remaining issue left preventing implementation of the agreement. It can be resolved by granting Peace Corps Director Aaron Williams' request that the State Department issue Official Passports to Peace Corps Volunteers assigned to Indonesia. End Summary.

¶2. (SBU) On November 11, Peace Corps officials reached agreement on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a GOI team led by Bunyan Saptomo, Director of North and Central American Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. While both sides acknowledge the need for internal procedural and administrative reviews, Peace Corps and the GOI agreed that all substantive, material issues are satisfactorily addressed by the agreed upon text. Ambassador Retno Marsudi, Director General of American and European Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, informed Charge d'Affaires Ted Osius that she will recommend to Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa on November 12 that the ad referendum text be approved without the need for further substantive discussions. Meanwhile Peace Corps Acting Director for Asia, David Burgess, has stayed behind in Jakarta to be available to address any unforeseen issues.

¶3. (SBU) The sole remaining hurdle for Peace Corps is to receive a favorable response from the Department to Peace Corps' request to issue Official Passports to Volunteers assigned to Indonesia (see reftel). If this final issue is positively addressed, Peace Corps can begin implementing a program with an initial group of twelve education Volunteers as early as Spring 2010.

¶4. (SBU) Peace Corps' return to Indonesia, the world's third largest democracy and largest Muslim-majority country, is long overdue. The return of Peace Corps to Indonesia after forty-years signifies a deepening of U.S.-Indonesia ties, and will, over time, exert a profound and positive influence on how our two countries relate to each other. And while there are no confirmed plans for President Obama to visit Indonesia, President Yudhoyono has invited him to visit in 2010 and an established Peace Corps program could be a highlight of that trip.

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